

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /095 W
-----015878 041215Z /64

R 031049Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8130
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 04213

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, IN, AF, IR
SUBJ: INDIAN ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. STATE 110740, B. NEW DELHI 6878

1. INDIAN CHARGE SAHDEV CAME TO SEE POLCOUNS MORNING MAY 3
ON WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A FISHING EXPEDITION. HE HAS HAD
NOT EVEN A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
FROM NEW DELHI, ALTHOUGH SUCH AN ASSESSMENT IS USUAL. HE
EXPLAINED INDIAN RECOGNITION IN TERMS OF NORMAL INDIAN
PROCEDURE (REF B) THOUGH EXPRESSING REGRET IT WAS LUMPED IN
THE COMPANY IT WAS.

2. HE WAS INTERESTED IN IRANIAN REACTIONS SINCE HIS EMBASSY
HAS HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS WITH MFA FOLLOWING THE COUP.
POLCOUNS EXPLAINED IRANIAN MFA VIEWS ARE VERY TENTATIVE
IN ABSENCE OF DEFINITIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SHAH BUT
HE SUGGESTED PROBABILITY THAT IRAN WILL BE WATCHING INDIAN
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REACTION CAREFULLY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND MIGHT EVENTUALLY
SEEK INDIAN COOPERATION IN ACTIVELY DISCOURAGING ANY AGGRES-
SIVE AFGHAN MOVES TOWARD PAKISTAN. SAHDEV READILY AGREED,
THOUGH NOTING THAT ANY INDIAN ACTIVITY CONCERNING PAKISTAN
WOULD BE SUSPECT IN PAKISTANI EYES, EVEN IF ITS AIM WAS TO
DISCOURAGE AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS ON AFGHAN SIDE. IN THIS
SENSE, HE THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ON THE HORNS OF

A DILEMMA, DAMED IF IT DID AND DAMNED IF IT DIDN'T, IN PAKISTANI EYES. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT SHAH MUST BE FEELING SURROUNDED NOW THAT AFGHANISTAN APPEARS TO HAVE GONE OVER TO THE SOVIET-IRAQI SIDE.

3. SAHDEV SAID INDIANS HAD "KNOWN ABOUT" THE "GROUP" OF OFFICERS FOR SOME TIME BUT HAD NOT EXPECTED, ANYMORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, THAT THEY WOULD ACT SO SOON. HE SUPPOSED DAOUD'S ARREST OF THE COMMUNIST LEADERS PERCIPITATED THEIR MOVE. HE HAD NOTHING TO OFFER RE POSSIBLE SOVIET COLLUSION. HE WAS ALSO VAGUE WHEN POLCOUNS PROBED AS TO EXACTLY IN WHAT WAY INDIANS "KNEW" OF THIS "GROUP".

4. SAHDEV ASSERTED THAT CONTINUED INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE FROM INDIAN POINT OF VIEW AS WELL AS IRANIAN. INDIA WOULD HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN AND PERHAPS MUCH TO LOSE THROUGH AREA INSTABILITY AS A RESULT OF PAKISTAN BREAKUP. BESIDES, WHAT WOULD BE THE ADVANTAGE OF ABSORBING MORE MINORITY, PROBABLY HOSTILE, POPULATIONS? (WE ASSUME THIS IS A POINT INDIANS REGULARLY MAKE TO IRANIANS.)

5. COMMENT: MAIN REASON WE REPORT THIS CONVERSATION IS TO ESTABLISH THAT INDIAN MFA HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET SENT ITS USUAL PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE TO ITS EMBASSIES.
SULLIVAN

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